

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are active in the present application. Claims 2-6 and 8-16 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and for clarity. Support for the amendment is found in the original claims. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.
Registration No. 45,518



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220
DJPER/kst

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IN THE CLAIMS

--2. (Amended) Compositions according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the amount of stabilizing agent is between 0.001 and 1% by weight.

3. (Amended) Compositions according to [any one of Claims 1 to 2, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein at least one of the olefin polymers functionalized by at least one functionalization agent chosen from carboxylic acids, their esters, their anhydrides and their metal salts is an ethylene polymer functionalized by maleic anhydride.

4. (Amended) Compositions according to Claim 3 [or 4, characterized in that], wherein the maleic anhydride is present in the functionalized ethylene polymer in an amount of 0.001 to 5% by weight.

5. (Amended) Compositions according to Claim 3 [or 4, characterized in that], wherein the ethylene polymer functionalized by maleic anhydride exhibits a standard density of 915 to 960 kg/m³ and a melt flow index, measured at 190°C under a load of 5 kg, of 0.1 to 50 dg/min.

6. (Amended) Compositions according to [any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the composition is diluted in one or more nonfunctionalized olefin polymers.

8. (Amended) Process for the preparation of stabilized compositions comprising one or more functionalized olefin polymers and one or more stabilizing agents, [characterized in

that] wherein one or more olefin polymers, one or more functionalization agents, one or more radical initiators, one or more stabilizing agents comprising one or more sterically hindered phenol groups and at most one ester functional group from which at least one of the stabilizing agents is 1,3,5-trimethyl-2,4,6-tris(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)benzene, and optionally one or more additives, are melt blended in a screw extruder.

9. (Amended) Process according to Claim 8, [characterized in that] wherein at least one of the olefin polymers introduced into the extruder is an ethylene polymer exhibiting a standard density of 915 to 960 kg/m³ and a melt flow index, measured at 190°C under a load of 5 kg, of 0.1 to 200 dg/min.

10. (Amended) Process according to [any one of Claims 8 to 9, characterized in that] Claim 8, wherein at least one of the functionalization agents introduced into the extruder is maleic anhydride.

11. (Amended) Process according to [any one of Claims 8 to 10, characterized in that] Claim 8, wherein the processing temperature lies between 120°C and 290°C.

12. (Amended) Process according to [any one of Claims 8 to 11, characterized in that] Claim 8, wherein the stabilized composition is diluted in one or more nonfunctionalized olefin polymers.

13. (Amended) Use of compositions according to [any one of Claims 1 to 6 or obtained by a process according to any one of Claims 8 to 12] Claim 1 for compatibilizing olefin polymers with polymers, fillers and metal substrates which are incompatible with olefin polymers.

14. (Amended) Use according to Claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the incompatible polymers are epoxy resins.

15. (Amended) Use according to Claim 13 [or 14] in multilayer adhesion.

16. (Amended) Use according to [any one of Claims 13 to 15] Claim 13 in the
multilayer coating of steel pipes.--

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